

country, and the rest of the world could live in peace and be free.

The bravery and honor of those men has come to be known with three simple words: "the greatest generation." Their sacrifice in battle and their continued service once they got home defined everything that was good and right about America. We honored their service and sacrifice with parades and public ceremonies and memorials to the fallen, but it was also honored in another way. We gave them the chance to go to college and pursue an education. We gave them the chance to build a better future for themselves and their families. Those of us who served in that terrible war got the chance to begin the innovation that drove America into the future. We received the GI bill for our service.

Many veterans of World War II have served in the Senate, many of whom were honored by medals of valor. We still have someone who served in World War II who earned the Medal of Honor—Senator DAN INOUE from Hawaii—for his incredible bravery in World War II, for his bravery under fire.

I am who I am today because of the GI bill. One of my dreams was to go to college—a dream that came true because of that bill, the GI bill. Eight of the sixteen million World War II veterans got an education because of that bill. It was paid for, and it even carried a small stipend for the expenses that one had as a college student. Now we need to start to build a new greatest generation. I want the veterans of the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan to have the same opportunity—an opportunity that enables them to contribute to their families and our Nation.

A college education is a key to that opportunity, but college costs have jumped so high—57 percent just in the last 6 years. The current GI bill does not cover those costs. So our brave veterans are forced to pay for their tuition and books out of their own pockets, watch their debts get worse and worse, and some cannot get to college at all.

We often say we honor our veterans, but now is the time to show them what we mean. That is exactly what our new GI bill does. Our bill closes the gap between the cost of college and the amount the veteran pays for their education. I am proud to be working with my colleagues. The occupant of the President's chair right now, Senator JIM WEBB of Virginia, started this process—this bill—16 months ago. Others, including Senator CHUCK HAGEL, Senator JOHN WARNER, and I, and more than half of the Senate, are fighting to get them the benefits they earned. They deserve no less.

The Senate has voted. The House has voted. Now we plead with President Bush to join with the majority of the Congress, all of the leading veterans organizations, and the American public in support of our bill. Since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 1.5 million Americans

have worn the uniform and served our Nation with honor and distinction. Now it is time for us to stand with our veterans who have served since 9/11 so they, too, can build a future for their families.

After D-day, Americans recognized the sacrifice our troops made and came together to honor that service. Now is the time for us to stop playing politics and come together once again.

Our veterans have earned a new GI bill. On this D-day anniversary, let's give them the respect and the benefits they deserve.

I close with once again commending our colleague, Senator JIM WEBB, who has himself a distinguished military record and insisted from his earliest days that we take care of our veterans so they can take care of America and regain the leadership this country has lost and will retrieve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

GI BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my colleague, Senator LAUTENBERG from New Jersey, just described something that is very important. He described the role of himself and others, and particularly the occupant of the chair as Presiding Officer, in working on the new GI bill. I was proud to be a cosponsor. I join him in hoping that President Bush will agree with the majority of the House and the Senate to look favorably upon this bill and agree to sign legislation that includes this bill. We owe it to America's veterans. I appreciate the comments made by my colleague from New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KENNEDY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to talk just for a moment today about the cloture vote on climate change legislation earlier today, but first, while I am getting some charts together, I wanted to mention also that this is the 40th anniversary that was yesterday of the death of Robert Kennedy.

I was driving to the Capitol listening to a news report about that day 40 years ago when Robert Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles, CA, and I was thinking about the fact that I was a very young man back then working on the Robert Kennedy Presidential campaign in my State when I heard that he had been assassinated. It was such an unbelievable blow to me and to all of the others who worked on the campaign and to so many other Americans who believed his campaign for the Presidency held such great promise.

Most young people in this country today know nothing about a 1968 Presidential campaign by Robert F. Kennedy. It was an extraordinary time, and he was an extraordinary man. I wish to read just a couple of comments by the late Robert F. Kennedy, who

was, by the way, a Senator and served in this body, as well as served as Attorney General of this country.

He gave a speech once that I have often quoted. It was a speech he gave in South Africa. Many will know these words. In his speech he said this:

Few will have the greatness to bend history; but each of us can work to change a small portion of the events, and in the total of all these acts will be written the history of a generation . . . it is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is thus shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, they send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

He gave that speech June 6, 1966, at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. People often talk about those ripples of hope that can sweep down the mightiest walls of resistance and oppression, and that passion and that dream and belief still exist today.

I reread this morning the speech Robert Kennedy gave during his Presidential campaign in Indianapolis, IN, on the evening of April 4, 1968, when Martin Luther King was assassinated. The crowd that had gathered for Robert Kennedy's appearance did not know that Dr. Martin Luther King had been assassinated and Robert Kennedy came to that area of Indianapolis. He was asked not to go because of concerns about his safety. He went anyway and he gave one of the most wonderful speeches. It was without a note, just an extemporaneous speech that had so much passion. I shall not read it today, but I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Ladies and Gentlemen—I'm only going to talk to you just for a minute or so this evening. Because . . .

I have some very sad news for all of you, and I think sad news for all of our fellow citizens, and people who love peace all over the world, and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee.

Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice between fellow human beings. He died in the cause of that effort. In this difficult day, in this difficult time for the United States, it's perhaps well to ask what kind of a nation we are and what direction we want to move in.

For those of you who are black—considering the evidence evidently is that there were white people who were responsible—you can be filled with bitterness, and with hatred, and a desire for revenge.

We can move in that direction as a country, in greater polarization—black people amongst blacks, and white amongst whites, filled with hatred toward one another. Or we can make an effort, as Martin Luther King did, to understand and to comprehend, and replace that violence, that stain of bloodshed that has spread across our land, with an effort to understand, compassion and love.

For those of you who are black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I would only say that I can